

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An article tracking system, further comprising:

activation means to selectively activate ~~an~~ one or more article tracking ~~device~~ devices in groups, the activation means located adjacent to the exit doors of a facility and having sufficient range to activate ~~a~~ one or more beacon ~~transmitter~~ transmitters as ~~it passes~~ they pass through the doors of the facility by transmitting a coded activation signal that activates one or more article tracking devices related to a unique identification code in each article tracking devices; and

~~an a plurality of~~ article tracking ~~device~~; devices, each article tracking device further comprising:

a unique identification code;

a beacon transmitter;

means to determine if the beacon transmitter is within a preselected area; and

means to detect when the beacon transmitter is moved beyond the preselected area; and

~~means to automatically activate the beacon transmitter and transmit a beacon signal when it is moved beyond the preselected area;~~

whereby the beacon transmitter will automatically activate and transmit a beacon signal when it is moved outside of the preselected area, and the activation means will issue a coded transmission that will activate groups of article tracking devices by issuing a coded

transmission that activates each article tracking device in the group of devices moved out of the preselected area.

2. (Currently amended) A system, as in claim 1, wherein:

the article tracking device is ~~a flexible device and sized to fit within~~ concealed within a wrapper use to secure a stack of currency.

3. (Currently amended) A system, as in claim [[1]] 2, further comprising:

a GPS receiver having means to determine the location of the article tracking device from GPS satellite data;

means to transmit the location of the article tracking device to a tracking station.

4. (Previously amended) A system, as in claim 2, wherein:

the article tracking device is waterproof.

5. (Previously amended) A system, as in claim 3, wherein the article tracking device further comprises:

an antenna for transmitting data from the article tracking device;

means to output GPS satellite data received by the GPS receiver to the antenna; and

a battery power supply for supplying power to the device.

6. (Previously amended) A system, as in claim 5, further comprising:

programmable processing means to control activation of the device and transmission of GPS data.

7. (Previously amended) A device, as in claim 1, wherein:

the beacon transmitter is a transponder; and

the transponder transmits data in response to signals from one or more remote tracking locations.

8. (Previously amended) A device, as in claim 7, wherein:

the transponder has means to receive signals from one or more remote tracking locations on a first preselected frequency and transmit the beacon signal on a second preselected frequency in response to the signals received from the remote tracking station.

9. (Currently amended) A currency theft tracking system, further comprising:

activation means to selectively activate an article one or more currency theft tracking device devices in groups, the activation means located adjacent to the exit doors of a facility and having sufficient range to activate a one or more beacon transmitter transmitters as it passes they pass through the doors of the facility by transmitting a coded activation signal that activates one or more article tracking devices related to a unique identification code in each article tracking devices; and

a currency theft tracking device, further including:

a transmitter which may be activated locally or remotely, the transmitter sized such that it is hidable within a stack of currency, or sized such that it can be

placed within a wrapper used to secure a stack of currency, or sized such that it is concealable within a currency bag; and

means to automatically activate the transmitter and transmit a beacon signal when it is moved beyond a preselected area;

whereby the transmitter will transmit a beacon signal when it is moved outside of a preselected area, and the activation means will issue a coded transmission that will activate groups of article tracking devices by issuing a coded transmission that activates each article tracking device in the group of devices moved out of the preselected area.

10. (Canceled) A device, as in claim 9, wherein:

the transmitter transmits a homing beacon when activated.

11. (Previously amended) A system, as in claim 9, further comprising:

a GPS receiver for receiving GPS location data; and

means to transmit GPS location data via the transmitter.

12. (Previously amended) A system, as in claim 9, further comprising:

a cellular telephone transceiver;

means to transmit that GPS location data via the cellular telephone transceiver.

13. (Previously amended) A system, as in claim 10, wherein:

the location of the transmitter is remotely determined by a TDOA network.

14. (Currently amended) A method of tracking the location of stolen articles, including the steps of:

automatically determining when ~~an article~~ one or more stolen articles, each having a unique identification code, has moved past an activation device near a door on the perimeter of a predetermined area;

activating individually, or in groups, each of the stolen articles via a coded transmission related to the unique identification codes in the stolen articles; and

transmitting data to a remote location to indicate location of the article when the article has moved past the activation device.

15. (Original) A method, as in claim 14, including the additional step of:

concealing the transmitter within a stack of currency or concealed within the wrapper securing the stack of currency together, or concealed within a bag holding the currency, such that when the currency is stolen, the transmitter transmits information related to the location of the currency.

16. (Original) A method, as in claim 15, including the additional steps of:

using GPS satellite data to generate location data which identifies the location of the article; and

transmitting the location of the article to a remote location.

17. (Original) A method, as in claim 16, including the additional step of:

using a cell phone transceiver to communicate the location of the article via a cellular phone network.

18. (Original) A method, as in claim 15, including the additional step of:

automatically initiating communication with police when the article has moved outside of a predetermined area.

19. (Original) A method, as in claim 18, including the additional steps of:

using GPS satellite data to generate location data which identifies the location of the article; and

transmitting the GPS data related to the location of the article to the police.

20. (Previously amended) A method, as in claim 15, including the additional steps of:

transmitting a homing beacon indicating the location of the article; and

using mobile tracking units to determine the location of the article via triangulation techniques.